

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 15-22 are presently pending in the application.

**Restriction Requirement**

The Office Action sets forth a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 for an election of a single one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1, 2, and 15-22; and
- II. Claims 3 and 4.

Applicants hereby elect group I (claims 1, 2, and 15-22) without traverse.

**Election of Species**

Since Applicants elect group I, the Office Action also sets forth a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 for an election of a single species from those specified in the following groups:

A: "dies used in said first step is inclined in a longitudinal direction" as recited in claim 1 (Fig. 10);

B: "a die set used in said second step provides a complementary surface to a row of rack teeth formed on said flat bottom portion and said die set includes a first pair of dies and a second pair of dies having a difference in pressing angle" as recited in claim 2 (Fig. 12); and

C: "prior to the step of pressing, forming pressing surfaces" as recited in claims 15, 19, and 22. (Figs. 16-18).

Applicant hereby elects group A (Fig 10) without traverse. Claim 1 is readable on elected group A.

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Amendment dated March 5, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of February 6, 2004


**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any other fee required by this document, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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